5th February 1925] [Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar]

projects were investigated, the latter designed to irrigate a large portion of the Cuddapah district. But though I repeat these allegations and statements often in this Council, I realise that there is a feeling in the House that Government for some mysterious reason are not really in earnest in the matter of improving the famine conditions of those districts. I desire to repudiate that suggestion and I desire also to make it absolutely plain that I am perfectly willing to place all my cards on the table. I am prepared to appoint a committee of officials and non-officials. Let them investigate the matter, and let them be satisfied that small schemes will not be really of outstanding benefit to those areas. But the only thing that is to be done is to educate public opinion and the opinion in this Council and to enable this Council by a sort of self-denying ordinance to see that they do get for these areas sufficient money to inaugurate large and ambitious schemes to the exclusion of small projects. Especially in the conditions of the Ceded districts, the small projects will do no good. They will only be small palliatives. It may benefit certain specific localities such as the locality where the Tungabhadra river goes, the Bellary west canal project for instance. These are the schemes which may be concentrated on as accepted. But if you want to improve the condition of the Ceded districts and make those tracts different from what they are, you have to embark on a project with a reservoir which is located elsewhere and from which the canal will irrigate such of the Ceded districts as can possibly be operated upon. It is from that point of view and because I am anxious and desirous that the committee should have all the information placed before it and to satisfy itself that the policy which the Government is pursuing is in a way the soundest policy for these tracts, that I propose to accept the resolution as amended."

Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai and Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu rose to speak on the motion.

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—" Unless hon. Members wish to vary the resolution as amended and accepted by the Government it seems to me that it would serve no useful purpose to invite further speeches in the matter. I understand that Mr. Rameswara Rao who has given notice of other amendments is not going to move them. "

The resolution as amended was put to the House and carried.

FEES PAYABLE BY MEDICAL STUDENTS.

In the absence of Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar who had given notice of Resolution No. 4, Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar requested permission of the House to move it, and the permission was accordingly granted.

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" Sir, I beg to move:

> '*That this Council recommends to the Government that the fees of the medical students who joined the Medical Colleges before notification No. 559, published on page* 303, Fort St. George Gazette, *dated 3rd July* 1923, *should, till they complete their course, be charged only at the rates prevailing on the dates on which they began their course either for the full course or for any particular subject for which they attend classes.*'

" I shall not, in moving this resolution with the permission of the Council, detain it for any considerable time. The justice of the proposition seems to

me to be obvious. Before the notification referred to in this resolution, that is, notification No. 589, published at page 303 of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 3rd July 1923, the fees of the Medical College students were Rs. 120 a year or if they were paid in a lump sum for five years together, the total fee was Rs. 540. By this notification published in the Gazette which has been referred to, the annual fee of Rs. 120 was raised to Rs. 200 and the consolidated fee payable for five years which stood at Rs. 540 before, was enhanced to Rs. 900. And the notification further says that if, after this notification, the students fail, they have to pay the new rates of fees. I submit, Sir, that when the students originally joined the college there was a particular rate of fees, and they could not then know—of course, they did not know—that at a subsequent period before their college course was over, the then fees would be enhanced. If they had known that such enhancement would take place, in all probability some at least of those students would not have joined the college. I submit that all considerations of fairness, justice and equity require that this notification should not have retrospective effect whether the students fail or pass in examinations held subsequent to the date of the notification. And after all, Sir, we have not a superfluity of qualified medical officers in the Presidency. On the other hand, their number is very limited and very small. And the existing number of these qualified medical practitioners are able to meet the requirements of only a very small fraction of the people. In addition to the misfortune of failure, the penalty of enhanced payment should not be imposed upon these unfortunate students. So that, having regard, as I submitted already, to the considerations of fair-play, equity and justice, the recommendation contained in this resolution should be accepted. The notification giving retrospective effect in the case of those who fail to pass in the examination should be cancelled. With these few remarks, I have very great pleasure in moving this resolution."

4-30 p.m. *Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar :—" Sir, I have very great pleasure in seconding this resolution. According to the notification published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* for raising the fees in the Medical College the fees were raised from Rs. 120 to Rs. 200 per annum and Rs. 540 to Rs. 900 for the whole course. Sir, it is a very great hardship indeed. In 1914 it was only Rs. 120. It is stated in the notification that the fee was so low then as to make the medical profession popular. I do not know what happened between 1914 and now that it might be allowed to become unpopular. Sir, we have not got enough of medical men to meet the needs of the country. We have got in Government service medical men only one for every 20,000 of the population. Only our Government does not realize the situation and does not extend it to at least one in thousand. The notification says that for every student they were spending Rs. 921 and that was a high sum. Sir, in all the professional colleges we do not look to how much we spend on each student. In fact, in the Engineering College we spend more than the revenue we get. Even in the Arts colleges we spend more than the revenue. That is for the good of the country and we ought not to take that into consideration. Especially on the medical people if you spend Rs. 921 per head it will pay you ten times. Throughout his life he will give you ten times more than what you spend on him for a few years. When that is so I do not know why the notification grudged paying Rs. 921 to the medical student. Even that Rs. 900 is only for the student that start on the first of July 1924. There are students who joined before

5th February 1925] [Mr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar]

that period and according to the notification they will have to pay increased rate if they fail one year. Some of the students might have made provision only for the amount of money which they will have to spend for five years according to the then rate. Now, if in the middle of the course they are asked to pay more it will really be a hardship. Sir, Government ought to have known by this time that it is not possible, nay almost impossible, for the medical students to go through the course in five years; because it is generally eight years and usually it is ten years Sir, we have got four University examinations to pass in five years and each examination consists of a number of compartments and in each subject we have got papers to answer practical and oral examinations to sit for and if in any of these a student is ploughed he will have to stay for six months more if not one year. It will be a very great hardship if you ask that student who is to go through the course for eight years or ten years to pay according to the increased rate. Moreover the examinations cover there a period of twenty days or so and even the bright students get ill by the strain of the examination and I have known cases where the students were detained on that account. I know in some cases in the course of the twenty days of examination death occurred in a family and stopped a student from appearing for the examinations. In such cases it is not reasonable to ask them pay more. The notification provides only for the whole term. Even if the student fails in one subject he will have to pay Rs. 100 for that subject while he is paying only Rs 15 now. Taking these things into consideration, I hope the hon. Minister will see that the grievances of the medical students to-day are redressed. Sir, I know the hon. Minister has come down to do some good to the medical students and I hope he will also do the same thing here."

*The hon the Raja of Panagal :—" Mr. President, Sir, the recommendation contained in the resolution is to the effect that the students of the Medical College who before the issue of the notification for revised fees were admitted into the college should be allowed to study paying the fees at the same rate at which they were charged before the notification issued. As was pointed out it is true that the rates were at Rs. 120 before the notification issued and later on it was raised to Rs. 200. The reasons why the rates were increased were the same as in the case of the other colleges here, viz., that the rates were found to be low. Now, Sir, my hon. Friend from Madras has asked me why the rates in 1914 were low and later on they were increased and he asked me for the reason why they were increased. The reason is obvious."

Mr. A. Chidambara Nadar :—" May I know whether the fees in the Law College were increased ? "

The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" I am informed that there has been an increase even in the case of the Law College."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" Is it in the same proportion ? "

*The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—"I am not quite sure whether it bears the same proportion, but there has been an increase. Sir, on account of these increases my hon. Friend has asked me if the college has not become unpopular. I must say that it has not become unpopular; because if you take a census of the students who seek admission you will find that they are too many to be admitted.

[5th February 1925

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" I never said that the College has become unpopular. I asked what it was that made the Government think that the profession might become unpopular."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The profession has not become unpopular because more and more of the students are seeking admission into the college. That shows that the profession has not become unpopular."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" I never said it has become unpopular."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Sir, another question that was asked is whether the students who are plucked should be allowed the same rate. I quite see that there is some room for complaint. But at the same time, taking into consideration the number of applicants who seek admission into the college it was found necessary that there must be some limitation to the number of years in which the students would be permitted to study under the concession rates and it was found that one year was quite sufficient to get through the year's examination. If a student is not keen about his studies and takes longer time he has to pay for it Mr. Krishnan Nayar has pointed out that there is some reason why in the case of the students that failed for the first year some consideration should be shown. The students seem to have made a representation to the Surgeon-General and he has sent up proposals before the Government and those proposals are now under consideration and I hope and trust that the decision would be arrived at very soon."

*Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, I just want to refer to one point which has not been referred to either in the Government Order or by the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government. It is with regard to the fees for the compartmental system. There is some provision in the Government Order for the students who fail in the final year . If the student fails in one subject he is being charged Rs. 100. On that point the Government Order is silent Every one expected that the same old scale would continue even now. So I should think that the sum of Rs. 100 which is demanded even in the earlier classes is against the spirit of the Government Order. Therefore I would suggest to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government that he should reconsider the decision as regards the state of affairs that exists now. I hope in this at least the original fees will be restored. I take it Rs. 60 would be the half-yearly fees according to the old scale. Taking that Rs. 60 into four parts each subject is charged only Rs. 15. As it is, if a man fails in one subject he has to pay Rs. 100 and it is unintelligible for us how Rs. 15 could be increased to Rs. 100. Therefore I suggest that the hon. Minister should restore the old state of affairs about which the Government Order is silent."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, I must state that I am disappointed at the attitude taken by the hon. Minister. I think that the resolution does not go far enough and it is modest so far as it goes. It did not ask for the abrogation of the Government Order. It only suggests that those who joined the Medical College before the issue of the notification should be charged the same rates till they complete their course. I have still a ray of hope that it will still be possible for the hon. Minister to reconsider and see whether something cannot be done in the way of accepting the resolution."

5th February 1925]

*The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" May I point out that I said that the whole matter was under consideration? There is no reason why one should anticipate what the decision would be and comment upon it."

Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu :—" I am very glad to have the assurance. But I was under the impression that the hon. Minister in the course of his remarks restricted the scope and said that in the case of the failed students there were not sufficient grounds for any reconsideration."

The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" That I did say in justification of the policy pursued by the Government in charging the rate. I only said that the reason why Government raised the rates in the case of the ploughed students was that more students were coming for admission than the College could accommodate. So Government thought they had better put a limitation as to the concession and they allowed a year."

Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu :—" I am very glad that the hon. Minister is prepared to view the question from the same standpoint in which I view it. But I wish to place one or two considerations which will certainly convince him that the course which is suggested is the most reasonable course to be taken.

" It will be remembered that the scope we are now giving to these graduates from the medical colleges is somewhat limited, and it is our duty to encourage the creation of an independent medical profession. It has to be remembered also that owing to various causes we have adopted a scheme whereby it is not possible to pay the medical graduates at the same rate at which we were paying them before. Taking these circumstances into consideration, it is our duty to make it much easier for students to obtain their medical education and thereby develop an independent medical profession. I do not think that those who enter the Medical College now can hope to get appointments carrying fat salaries. It is only by private practice that they can earn anything and that depends upon the way in which they can satisfy the people with whom they come in contact. That is the state of affairs hereafter. It will therefore be quite necessary that the Government should devise a means whereby they can make medical education much cheaper than at present instead of making it more costly, not being in a position to give them the same guaranteed appointments, not being in a position to give them the same salaries that they were earning hitherto. But to take steps whereby you make it more difficult to obtain medical education is, I think, a retrograde step. In view of the changed conditions so far as the medical profession is concerned, in view of the fact that they have to make their way hereafter by their own exertions, it is our duty to see that their position is bettered and not worsened. If we cannot induce a better system of paying them on account of financial or other reasons, if we cannot reduce the fees or cancel the Government Order, the simple request contained in this resolution is the most reasonable course to adopt."

4-45 p.m.

* Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao :—" Mr. President, some twenty-five years ago the medical profession was not overcrowded, so much so that the students of the Medical College had to be paid by the Government in the shape of stipends. It was also due to the fact that the medical profession did not attract as many graduates as Law did. Because Law was more paying. Now the profession of Law is overcrowded, and the people are turning to medicine. It is simply

5th February 1925]

(*b*) whether it is a fact that it has not been repaired yet and whether the villagers concerned suffer for want of irrigation facilities?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have no information.

Land Revenue.

Assignment of lands in Valkadai, North Arcot district.

144 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased, with reference to answer to interpellation No. 1193, dated 14th November 1924, to call for and lay on the table a report as to—

(*a*) whether any applications for house-sites have been received from the people of Valkadai;

(*b*) how many applications were received for the assignment of lands from members of depressed classes and from caste people;

(*c*) how many assignments have so far been made;

(*d*) of the above how many for the depressed classes and how many for the caste-people;

(*e*) whether any portion has been specially reserved for the depressed classes;

(*f*) if not specially reserved for the depressed classes, whether the land is available for being assigned to ryots of the other castes under Darkhast rules;

(*g*) whether Government are considering the feasibility of organizing co-operative societies for the common cultivation of the disafforested areas; and

(*h*) whether any such proposals have been received?

A.—There are no facts before the Government which render any enquiry necessary.

Agricultural holdings of 4 acres and less in the Presidency.

145 *Q.*—Mr. M. RATNASWAMI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of agricultural holdings of 4 acres and less in the Presidency;

(*b*) the proportion such holdings bear to the total number of holdings; and

(*c*) the proportion borne by the revenue paid by such holdings to the total land revenue of the Presidency?

A.—The revenue accounts contain particulars of pattas, not of holdings. It is possible that one patta covers more than one holding or only part of one holding. Pattas are not classified according to the extent of land they refer to but according to the amount of revenue payable on each. The information the hon. Member requires is therefore not available.

Village Establishments.

District Village Officers' conference held at Mayavaram and Chidambaram.

146 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur K. KRISHNASWAMI NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Revenue Member be pleased to state whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the resolutions passed at the District Village Officers'

5th February 1925] [Mr. M. Krishnan Nayar]

and I understood him to say that he is moving in the same direction indicated by this resolution, and after hearing his speech, I consulted Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar, the seconder of this resolution, and also my hon. Friend from Nellore, Mr. Krishna Rao Pantulu, who spoke in support of this resolution, and they agree with me that the better course is to withdraw the resolution. I will therefore withdraw the resolution, if the House will kindly permit it."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member wants leave of the House to withdraw his resolution."

Voices of ' Vote, vote ' and ' No, no '.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member has not the leave of the House to withdraw the resolution. It will go forward."

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—" In supporting the motion, I want to say a few words. In the name of the so-called civilization we have contracted so many habits and ways of living, woe unto us, with the result that we are liable to so many diseases unheard of before and quite unknown in this country. So, Sir, the demand for the medical profession is very great. Even in country parts the people are now in very great need of medical men. Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar said that we have got only one medical man for every twenty thousand people. We should at least have one in one thousand. Under the circumstances, to raise the fees from Rs. 540 to Rs. 900 will work a great hardship. If you do not reduce these prohibitive fees, the profession is sure to go down. What about the students who are poor, but who are intelligent and capable of entering the profession? In those cases, the door is once for all barred to them. Such a heavy fee may be adopted in the case of a crowded profession like Law. The Law College fees may be raised to the extent proposed or to any extent possible. A popular profession, or a profession which is in great need for the country, should be encouraged as far as possible. In the circumstances, I not only support the motion but think that the fees should not be raised but must be maintained at the lowest level possible."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" As my name has been mentioned by the hon. the Mover in withdrawing his resolution, may I have a word of explanation in the matter? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I think I have ruled before, and I believe I have very good authority for saying so, that one objector is enough to prevent the withdrawal of a resolution once moved. Consequently it has to be proceeded with, and I have to put it to the vote."

The motion was put and declared lost. A poll was taken with the following result :—

Ayes.

1. Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju.
2. Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi.
3. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu.
4. ,, C. Natesa Mudaliyar.
5. ,, T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar.
6. Mr. P. C. Venkatapatiraju
7. ,, A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.
8. ,, T. Adinarayana Chettiyar.
9. ,, P. Anjaneyulu.
10. ,, A. Chidambara Nadar.
11. Mr. K. Koti Reddi.
12. ,, C. Marudavanam Pillai.
13. ,, S. Muttayya Mudaliyar.
14. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao.
15. Mr. G. Rameswara Rao.
16. Sreeman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo.
17. Mr. M. Seetayya
18. ,, R. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
19. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar.
20. Mr. R. Veerian.

Noes.

1. The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp.
2. ,, Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar.
3. ,, the Raja of Panagal
4. ,, Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro.
5. ,, Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai.
6. ,, Mr. R. A. Graham.
7. ,, ,, N. E. Marjoribanks.
8. Mr. R. W. Davies.
9. ,, G. F. Paddison.
10. ,, P. L. Moore.
11. ,, Abdulla Ghatala Sahib.
12. ,, S. Arpudaswami Udayar.
13. Rao Sahib T. C. Tangavelu Pillai.
14. Mr. P. K. S. A. Arumuga Nadar
15. ,, A. V. Bhanoji Rao.
16. Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan.
17. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu.
18. Mr. J. Kuppuswami.
19. ,, A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar.
20. ,, B. Muniswami Nayudu.
21. ,, P. N. Marthandam Pillai.
22. ,, K. S. Ponnuswami Pillai.
23. ,, P. T. Rajan.
24. ,, B. Ramachandra Reddi.
25. ,, J. Samuel.
26. ,, K. Sitarama Reddi.
27. ,, R Srinivasan.
28. Diwan Bahadur W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar.
29. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhacharlu.
30. Mr. Haji Abdulla Sahib.
31. ,, Quadir Muhi-ud-din Sahib.

The motion was declared lost, 20 voting *for* and 31 *against*.

The Council then adjourned to meet again at 11 a m. the next day.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 118 asked by Mr. Venkatarama Ayyar *alias* Pantulu Ayyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 5th February 1925, page 275 supra.]

(1)

G.O. Mis. No. 1725, *Revenue, dated* 6*th November* 1924.

The Board of Revenue is informed that all lands in the districts of Tanjore, South Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore and Malabar which have been covered with sand or otherwise rendered unfit for cultivation by the recent floods will be granted remission under the ordinary remission rules until they are reclaimed.

* * * * *

(2)

G.O. Mis. No. 1931, *Revenue, dated* 16*th December* 1924.

In continuation of G.O. No. 1725, Revenue, dated 6th November 1924, the Government sanction the grant of remission of assessment on portions of survey fields or recognized subdivisions which have been covered with sand or otherwise rendered unfit for cultivation during the current fasli in all the districts affected by the floods except South Kanara, provided that the area so affected is not less than one acre in extent—where, however, a recognized subdivision measures less than an acre, remission may be granted on the entire subdivision irrespective of the extent.

* * * * *